

Energy - Docket Optical System

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Subject: Support ALJ Yacknin's decision to reject A1105023
Categories: Ready to Docket

California Energy Commission

DOCKETED
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Please support Administrative Law Judge Yacknin's decision to reject SDG&E's application A1105023 for the Quail Brush, Pio Pico, and Escondido gas plants. These fossil fuel plants use inefficient and polluting technology for unneeded power and do not move California towards achievement of its sustainable clean energy goals, as stated by Governor Brown.

SDG&E's peak demand growth has been relatively static for seven years, swinging somewhat above and below 4,500 MW. Peak demand has varied from 4,601 MW in 2007 to 4,643 MW in 2010 to 4,619 MW in 2012. In other years the peak demand has been well below 4,600 MW. Contrary to claims by SDG&E and Cogentrix—who solely seek to build this plant for their financial gain—this plant these plants are not needed. I object to SDG&E profiting from selling the gas and the electricity while we tax-paying citizens suffer from the related health impacts and forced to pay increased utility rates to build unnecessary fossil fuel plants.

SDG&E is attempting to force the retirement of fully functional local power plants to create a need for the new peaking units and create additional profit. These plants include NRG's 964 MW Encina Power Plant (Carlsbad), and nearly 200 MW of existing NRG peaker gas turbines. Encina can retrofit cooling towers to meet OTC requirements at 1/10th the cost of a new peaker plant. The 200 MW of NRG peaker gas turbines can be kept available if SDG&E simply extends the lease, as SDG&E is the property owner—but SDG&E is only interested in more profit.

Peaking power plants create massive profit for SDG&E, and saddles it's ratepayers with building costs through increased utility rates. The initial capital cost of Quail Brush would be \$150 million. The amortized cost over 20 years, in current dollars, would be ~\$600 million according to the California Energy Commission. Pio Pico would cost over \$1 billion over 20 years. The cost of these unneeded plants, which would be paid by ratepayers, will translate into higher electricity bills.

Local rooftop and parking lot solar combined with energy efficiency and a smart grid is the obvious alternative to new peaking power generation. San Diego County has a rooftop and parking lot solar potential of approximately 7,000 MW, far more than the peak demand in SDG&E territory. Right now there is solar on 15,000 rooftops and parking lots in our county, making us number one in the nation. By 2020 we will have ten times as much local solar power because of rapidly falling manufacturing costs and the boom in leasing rooftop systems.

In addition, peaking power plants do not create anywhere near the permanent job growth of rooftop and parking lot solar. Quail Brush and Pio Pico would create less than 25 permanent jobs. The state of California estimates about 150 permanent jobs are created for each 100 MW of local solar added (Air Resources Board, June 2010). Solar power generation is good for both the economy and the environment.

I am joining with thousands of local residents, Democrat Assembly Member Marty Block, Republican Assembly Member Brian Jones, San Diego Mayor Bob Filner, and the San Diego City Council, Santee Mayor Randy Voepel and the Santee City Council and asking you to reject SDG&E's application for proposed unneeded projects.

Uphold the decision of the Administrative Law Judge Yacknon to reject SDG&E's plan to profit from San Diego rate payers who already pay some of the highest rates in the country.

Sincerely,
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